COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY ACCESSIBILITY
JANUARY 24, 2005

Members Present: Katie Anderson, Byron Smith, and Avi Spechler. **Staff**: Craig Brenner, Liaison, and Lee Bowlen, City of Bloomington Community and Family Resources Department; Former CFRD intern J.R. Logan, who now works for the City's Safe and Civil City Program, also attended the meeting. **Visitor:** Doug Maddick, Ivy Tech State College-Bloomington Facilities.

Introductions/Media. Ruth Rives was featured in *The Herald-Times* for her project involving making neck coolers for U.S. soldiers in Iraq. CCA members were pleased to read of Ruth's efforts and send warm wishes to Ruth, whose son is serving in Iraq. A January 9th *Herald-Times* article (page D4) was distributed that focused on ways universities are becoming more accessible. Avi suggested that progress is not being made in university settings in the social realm, or "soft" social inclusion areas and issues. He reported that he and a number of graduate students, affiliated with GPO committee at Indiana University, have formed a group to work on issues of inclusion and access beyond physical disability. A final media-related item concerned the Target store advertising days and times over the holidays for free shopping assistance for customers with disabilities and/or who need physical assistance. Byron noted that in doing so the company is tapping into a large section of the population with capital – an argument also useful in terms of framing the physical accessibility/ADA compliance issue to businesses.

Avi presented videotapes from the library's Adaptive Technology Center about improving interactions with persons with autistic spectrum disorders, a disorder Avi reports is increasing in number and has a major impact on society. Avi suggested that we show the tapes during CCA meetings, and Katie recommended that they be made available for groups that might benefit from them – such as making the video entitled "Creating an Environment Where All Can Work" available for Hire Potential Indiana and related groups.

Doug Maddick introduced himself, indicating that he addresses accessibility at Ivy Tech State College-Bloomington. His current area of focus is emergency preparedness – developing a better evacuation plan for Ivy Tech. Craig reported that emergency preparedness is an increased focus within the National Organization for Disability (N.O.D.). Craig will check on progress regarding the city's dispatch system.

Concerns / ADA Complaints

New Construction
Katie reported that Ivy Tech's Design Technology students conducted accessibility surveys on establishments recently constructed in northeast Bloomington and downtown. They learned from the process, and the project helped to increase the focus of the class on ADA considerations.

Business

Leadership. Katie suggested that members of the group consider rotating CCA leadership positions. This discussion was tabled until February. Group members discussed the importance of having more people actively participate in CCA activities. It is hoped that Vickie Pappas and Ruth Rives will be part of the group again. Avi provided Joan Hart's email address, and Byron asked Avi to invite Joan on behalf of the group. Others were encouraged to invite participants or

potential participants to the February meeting, either individually or via disability-related organizations. It was noted that the present meeting was being held on the fourth (vs. third) Monday of the month, which may have interfered with members' ability to attend.

Surveys -- New look at program; possible new database. The group decided to have an extended discussion of overhauling the AccessAbility Decal program at the February meeting.

Former CFRD intern J. R. Logan presented information on the potential use of a relational database to store survey results, as well as ongoing progress notes, in an effort to provide a tool to manage the decal program. J.R. worked extensively with the program over the summer. He distributed a handout which details the advantages and disadvantages of using such a system and includes examples of extracting information from the database. His presentation is attached. This will be discussed in February   The group thanked J.R. for his work.

Accessibility Awareness Month – April, 2005. CCA members would like to have a third Accessibility Film Festival, noting the increased attendance from the first to the second festival and the media coverage the second festival received.   They would like to hold the festival at the Monroe County Public Library again this year. A subcommittee to plan this and other Accessibility Awareness Month activities will be formed in February.

Business Registration. Tabled until Chuck returns from travel.

Grants, ADA Implementation. Craig reviewed criteria for the ADA Indiana grant proposals, which were e-mailed to CCA members when received in December. He suggested that a potential use of grant funds might be to assist with the AccessAbility Decal Project.

Emergency Evacuation. Byron will touch base with Ed Vandesande o check on the status of this program. (Also see above discussion).

City Sidewalks. New snow removal ordinance discussed. Byron noted the need to determine responsibility for cleaning sidewalks that are borders to parking lots.

Announcements

Chocolate Fest. Two events this year – the Art of Chocolate and the Chocolate Festival. All are urged to attend.

"Disability in Work" brown bag series**,** February 10, 2005, 1:00 p.m., Work One (collaboration between FSSA and Work One).

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the CCA is scheduled for Monday, February 21, 2005, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. in the McCloskey Conference Room at City Hall.